

XVII.—Description of a new Species of *Pseudacræa* from Natal. By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

THE genus *Pseudacræa* is one of the most interesting groups of butterflies, the species of which mimic the various forms of *Acræa*, *Planema*, &c.

The present species is in the collection of Mr. Walter de Rothschild, and was captured in Natal by Mr. Peter Colville, after whom I have much pleasure in naming it.

The nearest allies of *P. Colvillei* are *P. Trimenii* and *P. Boisduvalii*, between which it is in some respects intermediate; it appears to me to resemble *Acræa horta* rather than the groups copied by its two allies.

*Pseudacræa Colvillei*, sp. n.

♂. Alæ anticæ area interno-basali rufa, nigro maculata; area apicali cinerea, subhyalina, venis strigisque internervularibus nigris; limbo externo nigrescente; alæ posticæ rufæ, area basali nigro maculata; limbo externo nigro, rufo maculato; corpus nigrum, fulvo alboque maculatum.

Primaries with the basi-internal half reddish fulvous (probably carmine-red when fresh), with black markings, exactly as in *P. Trimenii*; apical half smoky semitransparent grey, with black veins and internervular streaks nearly as in *P. Boisduvalii*, but without the transverse <-shaped markings near the base of the median branches: secondaries nearly as in *P. Trimenii*, but with large oval red spots on the black border, as in the female of *P. Boisduvalii*; form and expanse of wings corresponding with those of the latter species.

Natal (*P. Colvillei*). Coll. W. de Rothschild.

Although *P. Trimenii* is subject to slight variation in colouring, the secondaries sometimes exhibiting a snow-white patch from the three round black spots crossing the median vein, as in *Acræa acara*, there can be little doubt that the present species is far too distinct from it for a mere sport; its resemblance to an entirely different form of *Acræa*, its different outline, and other characters show it to be clearly a separate species. Neither is it any more remarkable that two *Pseudacræas* of the same group should occur in Natal than that the corresponding forms of *Acræa* should independently exist there; the only strange thing is, in spite of the rarity of the species in this genus, that the present species has not already been described.

The allied *P. Boisduvalii* inhabits Western and South-western Africa.